

Mission Statement

Education in which we are able to encounter each other, especially across profound social barriers, is transformative and allows problems to be approached in new and different ways. Inside-Out's mission is to create opportunities for people inside and outside of prison to have transformative learning experiences that emphasize collaboration and dialogue and that invite them to take leadership in addressing crime, justice, and other issues of social concern.

Vision Statement

We believe that, by studying together and working on issues of crime, justice, and related social concerns, those of us inside and outside of prison can catalyze the kinds of changes that will make our communities more inclusive, just, and socially sustainable.



"My brain never stopped processing information as each student was able to add a piece to the steadily growing mosaic. For me, this is what a college class is all about. I left class with my mind racing to place all of the pieces discussed into their proper places." (Inside Student)

"Inside-Out should come with a warning label – in big black and yellow letters: Warning: may cause severe damage if taken internally. We have seen, first hand, the kind of damage the program can do to preconceived notions, stereotypes, and most importantly - ignorance. ... We came here incarcerated, mentally incarcerated, and we have learned things about not just... the Prison Industrial Complex, but about ourselves. Inside-Out has acted, for many of us, as a kind of eye-exam for the soul, forcing us to realize what we believe and why we believe it. And we now realize that our vision was never 20/20. We leave here with a little better vision." (Outside Student)

Training Institute

Inside-Out is a model of transformative education. Its unique pedagogical approach focuses on change for everyone involved: college students, prison participants, as well as the instructor facilitating the class. Inside-Out has a growing national network of instructors who are taking this pedagogy forward in their own areas, both in geography and discipline. It is very exciting to see this expanding national and international body of instructors take shape, as each new instructor brings a unique insight to the practice of the Inside-Out teaching model.

As of August 2009, more than 200 instructors from 35 states and abroad have taken part in one of 15 National Inside-Out Instructor Training Institutes. Dozens of classes in the Inside-Out model are being offered throughout the country every semester - through small liberal arts colleges, community colleges, and large research universities - in county jails, state prisons, and community correctional facilities - in a range of disciplines, including the humanities, philosophy, anthropology, sociology, history, criminal justice, public speaking, political science, urban studies - and the list goes on. More than 6,000 inside and outside students have taken an Inside-Out class at last count. As one instructor commented: "The experience has highlighted the transformative value... of combining intellectual, emotional and experiential learning. I have expanded my capacities and deepened my knowledge as an instructor and as a human being."

We hope that you will join us for a training at some point - and feel free to share this information with anyone you think may be interested.

Upcoming Trainings in 2010

Three trainings will be offered during the 2010 summer months. Check our website (www.insideoutcenter.org) for the dates, which we expect to be set by mid-November.

There is an application process that includes submission of a formal written application, current C.V., names of two professional references, and a telephone interview. Once admitted to the program, applicants are asked to submit a registration form along with a non-refundable deposit of \$400, which is applied to the \$825 tuition fee. Room and board are separate costs, determined by the conference center used for the training. Generally, these costs are in the range of \$500-\$600.

To request an application or additional information, please send an e-mail to: insideout@temple.edu

THE INSIDE-OUT CENTER

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THE INSIDE-OUT CENTER

National Headquarters of
The Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program

Promoting Transformative Education and Social Change

**"Those walls aren't there just to keep me in,
but to keep you out."**

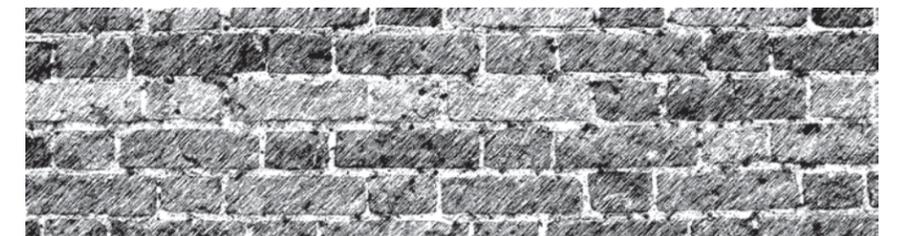
(Inside Participant)

The Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program

Education through which we are able to encounter each other, especially across profound social barriers, is transformative and allows problems to be approached in new and different ways.

The Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program increases opportunities for men and women, inside and outside of prison, to have transformative learning experiences that emphasize collaboration and dialogue, inviting participants to take leadership in addressing crime, justice, and other issues of social concern.

Moving beyond the walls that separate us...



THE INSIDE-OUT CENTER

Lori Pompa, Founder and National Director



College of Liberal Arts
TEMPLE UNIVERSITY®



History

The Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program, founded in 1997, was based on the simple hypothesis that incarcerated men and women and college students might mutually benefit from studying crime, justice, and related social issues together as peers. Participants in that first course, and every subsequent course, have said that Inside-Out was not simply another learning experience – it transformed the way they viewed themselves and the world.

The original idea for this exchange among college students and people inside prison came from a man named Paul serving life in a Pennsylvania prison. He envisioned a space where the two groups could maintain an ongoing dialogue and delve into the root issues of crime together, where individuals could ask questions, address stereotypes, and examine criminal justice literature – in the context of honesty, authenticity, and trust.

Since then, Inside-Out has done that – and more. It has become a movement, driven by students, incarcerated women and men, and college and university instructors trained to design and teach Inside-Out courses in their own subject areas. In turn, these instructors have become advocates within their schools and correctional systems for a model of prison-based, post-secondary education that is financially sustainable and an engine for both short- and long-term change in the United States justice system and in their communities. Inside-Out serves as a source of pride for the many educational and correctional institutions that host its program.

Inside-Out creates a dynamic partnership between institutions of higher learning and correctional systems in order to deepen the conversation about and transform our approaches to understanding crime, justice, freedom, inequality, and other issues of social concern.

“I don’t think I have ever felt such a strong change occur inside of me and it will be something that I hold inside for the rest of my life.” (Inside Student)

“Most college courses are lectures and readings which, later on, we are supposed to apply to real-life situations. This class was a real-life situation itself... The students in the class gave it life – we taught each other more than can be read in a book.” (Outside Student)

“We now carry the torch! We can provide a voice for those who can’t speak, and fight a battle for those unable to fight. I can’t thank you enough for letting me be a part of this movement.” (Former Inside Student)

Inside-Out brings college students together with incarcerated men and women to study as peers in a seminar behind prison walls. The core of the Inside-Out Program is a semester-long academic course, meeting once a week, through which 15 to 18 “outside” (i.e.: undergraduate) students and the same number of “inside” (i.e.: incarcerated) students attend class together inside prison. All participants read a variety of texts and write several papers; during class sessions, students discuss issues in small and large groups. In the final month of the class, students work together on a class project.

Inside-Out is an opportunity for college students to go behind the walls to reconsider what they have come to know about crime and justice. At the same time, it is also an opportunity for those inside prison to place their life experiences in a larger framework. Inside-Out creates a paradigm shift for participants, encouraging transformation and change agency in individuals and, in so doing, serves as an engine for social change.

Through college classes and community exchanges, individuals on both sides of prison walls are able to engage in a collaborative, dialogic examination of issues of social significance through the particular lens that is the “prism of prison.”

“I have found much more than knowledge in this class. I have learned about myself, others, our society, and the connections between all three.” (Outside Student)

What Inside-Out Does

The Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program creates avenues for social change through education and civic engagement. By generating opportunities for incarcerated and college students to come together and learn in the same classroom, Inside-Out opens the door for people to gain an education that emphasizes collaborative learning and problem-solving.

Inside-Out brings people together to share learning experiences in which each person is continually reminded of his or her own humanity as stereotypes dissolve, layer after layer. Each interaction gives us the opportunity to encounter each other and to recognize differences and similarities in experiences, perspectives, and beliefs. By sustaining the practice of listening and seeing more deeply, Inside-Out creates a temporary but significant place for us to invite forth our own and others’ best selves and inspires us to create more such places in the world.



On the national level, staff at the Inside-Out Center work to:

- Provide leadership, training, and technical assistance to college and university instructors to create working partnerships between schools and correctional institutions.
- Develop support for the program in prison systems and schools across the country by reaching out to educators and prison administrators.
- Advocate for greater educational opportunities for incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals.

Inside-Out educators work to:

- Create classroom communities of incarcerated and college students who examine social issues together, so that they may have a challenging and transformative experience of critical thinking, collaborative problem-solving, and civic engagement.
- Make post-secondary education more available to incarcerated and formerly incarcerated men and women.
- Assist non-incarcerated college students, particularly those pursuing careers in criminal justice and social services, in seeing men and women who have been convicted of crimes as potential partners and leaders in addressing social problems.
- Encourage all participants’ commitment to civic engagement in addressing social problems.
- Encourage each group of Inside-Out students to develop class projects that have the potential to make a difference in the real world.

Inside and outside alumni:

- Organize and participate in ongoing local “think tanks” composed of Inside-Out alumni and instructors who meet regularly inside jail or prison to work on and carry out their own projects.
- The Graterford Think Tank, established in 2002 at the State Correctional Institution at Graterford in Pennsylvania, hosts workshops on issues of crime and justice for members of the local community and advises and partners with the Inside-Out Center in training new instructors and supporting the national program.
- As other think tanks form across the country, a national network of alumni will have the capacity to coordinate larger-scale social change projects.

Supporters

- The After Prison Initiative of the Open Society Institute (Soros Foundation)
- The Brook J. Lenfest Foundation
- The Chace Granting Group
- The Douty Foundation
- The Patricia Kind Family Foundation
- The Phoebus Criminal Justice Initiative (Bread and Roses Community Fund)
- The Threshold Foundation (Restorative Justice Funding Circle)
- An Anonymous Foundation